

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF NURSING

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IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSURE :
PROCEEDINGS :

RE: CASSANDRA M. SHEPARD, R.N. : **ORDER OF SUMMARY**
 : **SUSPENSION AND NOTICE OF**
 : **HEARING**
 License No. R037991, :
 :
 Licensee. :

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WHEREAS, Cassandra Marie Shepard, R.N., (“Licensee”), is licensed to practice as a registered nurse in the State of South Dakota and holds license number R037991.

That on or about March 28, 2011, the South Dakota Board of Nursing (“Board”) received a report in regards to the Licensee being arrested and charged with domestic violence, aggravated murder, and obstruction of justice in Salt Lake County, Utah, for the abuse and death of a vulnerable adult. The Licensee was the victim’s legally documented guardian/caretaker, and co-habitant.

Licensee had originally been licensed in the State of Oregon on December 16, 2008. The Licensee endorsed into South Dakota on June 15, 2009, and currently has an active license in the State of South Dakota.

A review of the IFMC and Nursys databases indicated no previous disciplinary actions against said Licensee.

Licensee’s criminal background check was negative upon endorsement.

NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. That the Board has jurisdiction of the Licensee and the subject matter of this Order.

2. That based on the above, the Board specifically finds that the public health, safety, and welfare require emergency action against Licensee's license.

3. That based on the above, the Board specifically finds that the Licensee's actions endanger the public health, safety and welfare, and imperatively require emergency action in that Licensee may endanger the health and safety of those persons who are or will be entrusted to her care in the future and that these are matters of a nature that would constitute further grounds for discipline of her license to practice nursing under SDCL § 36-9-49(5), (7), and (10).

4. Based upon these findings, Licensee's license to practice nursing in South Dakota is hereby summarily suspended. Licensee may petition according to SDCL § 36-9-57 for reinstatement of her license at any time for "good cause". This Order also affects Licensee's privilege to practice in South Dakota. Should licensee change her home state under the Nurse Licensure Compact, then Licensee's practice privilege is subject to the same requirements as set forth in this order as her South Dakota license.

5. That Licensee shall turn in her license to the Board within ten (10) days from the date of this Order and it shall be kept by the Board until further action on this matter.


6. Licensee is hereby notified that any practice of or holding herself out as a registered nurse during the terms of this Order of Summary Suspension is a violation of SDCL § 36-9-68.

7. This action is reportable discipline and will be published in the Board's Newsletter and posted on its website and reported into the Healthcare Integrity and Protection Data Bank (HIPDB) and National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB) as required by law.

The South Board of Nursing at its meeting on the 1st day of April 2011, approved this Order of Summary Suspension as written without modifications by a vote of 8-0, and issues its Order of Summary Suspension consistent herein as follows:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the above is adopted as an Order of the South Dakota Board of Nursing this 11th day of April, 2011.

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF NURSING



Gloria Damgaard, Executive Director

NOTICE OF HEARING

The South Dakota Board of Nursing ("Board") pursuant to SDCL §§ 1-26-16, 1-26-27, and 1-26-29, hereby provides this Notice of Hearing to Cassandra Marie Shepard, RN, License No. R037991 ("Licensee") as follows:

1. Hearing on the Order of Summary Suspension will take place before the Board on June 15, 2011, at 1 pm o'clock ~~am~~ ^{pm} at the office of the South Dakota Board of Nursing, 4305 S. Louise Avenue, Suite 201 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

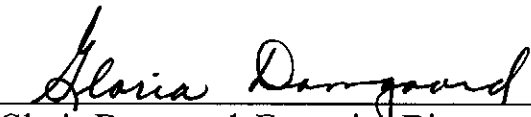
2. This matter is an adversarial proceeding and Licensee has the right to be present at the hearing and to be represented by an attorney. These due process rights will be forfeited if they are not exercised at the hearing.

3. Licensee has a right to request that the agency use the Office of Hearing Examiners for this proceeding by giving notice of the request to the Board no later than ten (10) days after the service of this Notice of Hearing on Order of Summary Suspension.

4. A decision issued by the Board after the hearing may be appealed to the circuit court and to the state Supreme Court as provided by law.

Dated this 11th day of April, 2011.

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF NURSING


Gloria Damgaard, Executive Director